

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

Division of Information Science and Technology



Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

MAY 23 1980

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

This letter will bring you up to date on plans for the June 5th meeting of the Information Technology Working Group of the NSF Advisory Committee on Information Science and Technology. The preliminary meeting agenda is attached.

You will recall that the objective of the meeting is to establish priorities amongst various information technology research support opportunities and strategies, and particularly (i) to determine whether there are "gaps" not likely to be filled by the private sector, and (ii) to identify information science research problems that are likely to decrease in priority as a result of advances in information technology. Responses to my previous letter have proposed a variety of research directions and criteria for judging priorities; the former are summarized in the attachment.

In addition to strictly scientific and technological problems, these responses include important societal and public policy issues which are consequences of the increasing pervasiveness of information technology. At the meeting, we propose to concentrate on the technological and scientific matters but the agenda provides an opportunity to discuss those societal issues which demand further attention, and what might be the most appropriate forum for their consideration. We have adopted this strategy because full consideration of the societal and public policy problems would require the addition of specialists in areas not represented in the Working Group.

The scientific and technological topics proposed for discussion are numerous. We will try to synthesize and group them into a smaller number of broadened categories compatible with the limited time available for discussion. The meeting will further define them and provide quantitative judgments about the relative priority of each.

As the attached agenda shows, during the morning session there will be an opportunity to review, refine, and modify the technological issues. In the latter portion of the morning we will review the criteria and the weights to be assigned each criterion.

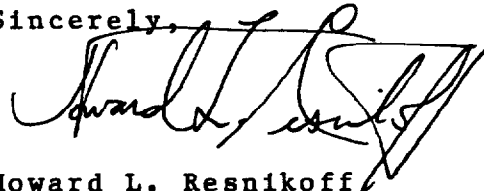
After lunch we will systematically consider how each suggested

issue meets each criterion using an electronic group voting machine called CONSENSOR. This device and its expected use during the meeting are described on a separate page attached to this letter. Finally, we will review societal and public policy issues which result from the expanded use of information technology.

The report of the meeting will contain a summary of the discussion and a relative "score" for each of the issues addressed.

If you have any suggestions about this procedure please call me prior to the session. We look forward to seeing you on June 5th at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 150 at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard L. Resnikoff", written over a horizontal line.

Howard L. Resnikoff
Director

Enclosures